Syllabus    Spring 2019

MGT 460J: LEGAL ISSUES IN SPORTS

Instructor:          Mark Sophir, J.D.
Office:             
Office Hours:       On appointment
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Class Time:  Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
Class Location:  Simon 109

Course Description:

This course introduces the fundamentals of legal issues affecting sports. It teaches the basic tenets of a variety of legal disciplines through the lens of sport, with an emphasis on current legal sports issues in the news.

In the tort arena, we will explore the potential liability of sports teams and leagues for failing to adequately protect the health of participants (e.g. concussion lawsuits, of athletes for reckless actions toward their competitors, of coaches, trainers and medical personnel at all levels for failing to properly train, monitor and assess athletes, of product manufacturers for injuries caused by defective sport equipment, and of teams for injuries to spectators.

In the contract and labor area, we will discuss the player-agent relationship, terms and issues applicable to professional athlete contracts, and the negotiation and arbitration thereof, collective bargaining agreements in the major sports leagues, licensing and endorsement deals, and the roles of arbitrators and commissioners in meting out punishment (e.g. Tom Brady/ Ezekiel Elliot)
The course will delve into various other legal issues in sports involving antitrust, constitutional law and intellectual property, and address current topics and cases in the news.

**Course Objectives:**

The goals of this course are for the student to gain:

1. A better understanding of United States legal system, including how to read, and interpret “case law”;
2. A basic understanding of the law of torts, contracts, antitrust, labor, constitutional law, intellectual property law, and other related disciplines;
3. The ability to apply these legal concepts to the world of sports, such as the negotiation and terms of player contracts, collective bargaining agreements, and endorsement and licensing deals; the assessment of liability exposure of sports leagues, team owners, schools, players and coaches for personal injuries incurred by participants and spectators; and various other potential legal implications associated with other sport actions and behaviors;
4. The ability to identify, anticipate, and analyze legal issues that may arise and to consider strategies to minimize and address legal risk.

**Text/Materials:**


Additional selected readings and cases assigned as appropriate

**Hands-on Project**

Students will prepare and argue a baseball arbitration.
Tentative Weekly Course Schedule (Subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Introduction to Sports Law and Tort law principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Participant Liability - Liability of athletes for negligent and reckless behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Entity Responsibility- Liability of team owners, leagues, schools, coaches, trainers and medical personnel</td>
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<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Tort Claims</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>Arbitration and Arbitration Assignment</td>
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<td>Apr 4</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Contract law principles</td>
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<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>Sports Specific Contracts</td>
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<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Antitrust Law in Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Hodgepodge- Sports issues in Labor Law, Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property and other disciplines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>Arbitrations</td>
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<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Arbitrations</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (1 p.m.- 3 p.m.)</td>
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Grading Policy:

Class attendance and participation - 15%
Midterm Test - 25%
Arbitration project – 30%
Final Exam - 30%

The following rules are in place to ensure compliance with University policies and principles of fairness and academic integrity.

**Pass/Fail**

If you are taking the course on a Pass/Fail basis, you must earn the equivalent of a final grade of C or higher in order to receive a Pass.

**Incomplete**

You may be eligible to receive an Incomplete in the course if, during the last several weeks of the semester, and due to unexpected personal or professional circumstances, you are unable to attend class, turn in the final paper on the due date noted on the syllabus, or attend the final exam. I must authorize Incompletes, and the University College Incomplete form must be signed and submitted prior to the end of the semester. Normally, an Incomplete will be changed to a letter grade, if warranted, only if all required work is submitted within 60 days after the end of the semester.

**Attendance**

Attendance at every class session is required unless unexpected or work circumstances prevent you from attending. In cases of excused absences, please contact me prior to the class meeting so that we can discuss the situation. Two or more unexcused absences will drop the final course grade by at least one full letter grade. Students with three or more absences, excused or unexcused, are advised to withdraw from the course.
Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

It is dishonest and a violation of student academic integrity if you plagiarize, cheat on an examination, copy or collaborate on assignments without permission, fabricate or falsify data or records, or engage in other forms of deceit or dishonesty. All violations of standard rules of academic integrity will be reported to and investigated by the Dean of University College. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional resources about proper citation, attribution of sources, collaboration with other students, or any other related aspect of academic integrity and plagiarism. Complete information about the Statement on Academic Integrity for University College and Summer School may be found at http://ucollege.wustl.edu/faculty/academic_integrity.

Special Needs and Disabilities

If you require accommodations for taking exams or for lectures, please contact Cornerstone: the Center for Advanced Learning, located in Gregg Hall, 935-5970, www.cornerstone.wustl.edu. I will provide any accommodations for which you qualify as long as I receive the appropriate documentation from Cornerstone. Cornerstone serves as the official University resource for approving and arranging students' accommodations. All information is treated as confidential.